



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

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Jan. 21, 2014

New Burn Ban in effect for Travis County

The Travis County Commissioners Court voted this morning to ban outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of the county. The burn ban expires on Feb. 19, 2014, unless further action is taken by the Court or Fire Marshal prior to that date. The previous burn ban was lifted on Sept. 20, 2013.

Travis County Fire Marshal Hershel Lee reminds the public to not throw cigarettes out vehicle windows, and make sure machinery and vehicles are properly maintained to avoid creating sparks that cause fire.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) measures moisture in the top eight inches of the soil and ranges from 0, indicating the wettest conditions, to 800, for the driest conditions. The county is currently at 102 on the KBDI with daily increases in dryness.

This ban on outdoor burning does not affect a prescribed burn under the supervision of a prescription burn manager. It also does not affect outdoor hot work when done under the guidelines established by the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office. Prescription burn managers and those in need of outdoor hot work permits must contact the Travis County Fire Marshal's Office or the fire department in whose jurisdiction the work will be done.

Barbecuing in Travis County Parks and Parks managed by the county is allowed as long as the fire is within a closeable container or a container with a lid. You should also have water nearby in case the fire spreads. Call 911 immediately if a fire gets out of control.

If you have questions about the burn ban, please call the Fire Marshal's Office at 512-854-4621, or contact your local fire department.

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Media: Please call the Fire Marshal's Office for interviews or questions at 512-854-4621.